REMARKS

Applicant added claims 16-18. The newly added claims introduce no new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests examination of pending claims 1-18.

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Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hanson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,549,957 (Hanson). This rejection is respectfully traversed. The teachings of Hanson do not show the currently claimed

10   invention of independent claims 1, 6, and 11. For instance, computing and storing a first representative value for said first composite message when the email server does not receive a confirmation from a client in response to a receipt message sent by the server. In the claimed invention, the server needs to store the representative value for any message whose transmission session did not end normally. When the server does

15   not receive a confirmation message from the client after the server sent a receipt message to indicate that the server received the entire first message, a representative value for the first message is stored. Then, a second representative value is computed for a second message, which arrived subsequent to the first message. The second representative value is compared with the first representative value to determine

20   whether the second message is a duplication of the first message. The second message is forwarded to an email recipient, only if the second message is not a duplication of the first.

In contrast, Hanson teaches a method of preventing a received message from triggering the generation and forwarding of a new message, thereby avoiding the

25   creation of a network chain reaction or maelstrom (Abstract). According to Hanson, a
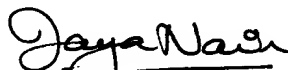
maelstrom can be viewed as a chain reaction in which a single message can unintentionally trigger the generation of a large rapidly growing, potentially infinite number of messages (column 1, lines 2-24). Therefore, Hanson is not teaching to prevent the duplication of messages caused by the miscommunication between the

5 client and the server. As such, Hanson does not teach a method recited by the Applicant's claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not anticipate independent claims 1, 6, and 11. Claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-18, each of which depends directly or indirectly from amended independent claims 1, 6, and 11,

10 are likewise patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Hanson for at least the same reasons set forth for amended independent claims 1, 6, and 11. .

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution

15 of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 774-6926.

If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP505). A copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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